

**Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation Agenda  
Thurston Regional Planning Council  
2424 Heritage Court SW, Suite A  
Olympia, Washington 98502**

**Friday April 8, 2011  
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Board members present:** Page Scott, Brian Lagerberg, Barbara Sainitzer, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Madelyn Carlson, Joelle Brouner, Todd Slettvet, Tom Hingson, Lynn Moody, Paul Ingiosi for Robin Rettew

**WSDOT staff:** Don Chartock, Ryan Warner, Christopher Aiken and Jef Lucero

**Council business**

**Welcome and introductions**

After introductions, Page provided a safety briefing.

**Approve meeting notes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February meeting. The motion passed.

**Budget and work plan**

Don began by noting that the council is spending down its budget this biennium. About 22 percent of the budget is still available, and a few more bills are expected to come in that may further affect spending.

**Vice chair**

Now that Page is chair, the vice chair position is vacant. Don mentioned that he and others have reviewed the legislation and bylaws and it appears WSDOT as an agency should serve as vice chair.

**RideshareOnline**

At the last ACCT meeting Cathy Silins presented information about the school pool module for RideshareOnline. Cathy's purpose in presenting was to ask the ACCT Council to provide \$40,000 from the 09-11 ACCT budget to help develop the school pool module. The council approved and asked for a more detailed overview, which was presented by Christopher Aiken, who works on RideshareOnline for WSDOT. Christopher walked the group through the functionality and features of RideshareOnline.

Joelle asked whether there are interfaces within RideshareOnline for non-English speaking people, whether there is a designation within the calendar function for accessible trips, and whether any usability testing was done to determine whether the site is functional for people with sight impairments. Christopher replied that those are all things that can and should be implemented in future phases of the site's development, if there aren't already plans to address those issues.

Barbara asked whether the tool will connect with online services for people with disabilities. Don replied that language outlining 504 and ADA compliance will be built into the system. Joelle asked for oversight to ensure that anyone contributing to the advancements and enhancements of RideshareOnline include provisions for accessibility standards in their procurement contracts.

Page asked for periodic follow-ups as these pieces are implemented, then asked Don to go over the funding that ACCT set aside for the project. Don replied that \$40,000 has been split evenly between the school pool and volunteer driver modules.

### **Work plan elements**

#### **HSTP report**

##### **North Central RTPO**

Patrick Walker began by noting the HSTP report process began last June and is now complete end. Three stakeholder meetings were held in Omak, Chelan, and Wenatchee. Patrick commented that unless ridership grows across the board, it will be challenging to grow programs to accommodate special needs transportation. He noted more frequent and effective service levels, better user education and better access to stops as three areas of future emphasis.

Don asked whether there were any significant population changes between the last plan and this one. Patrick replied that his group was using census data, and there was little variance between the two. The area is large and disparate, and the best effort was put in by working with DSHS to find if and where any particularly underserved communities were located. Joelle asked whether the group was able to get good feedback from the Hispanic communities in the region. Patrick replied that they reached out to them through the service groups but received little response.

Tom asked whether anticipated funding shortfalls or cuts were integrated or considered in the plan. Patrick replied although funding levels were considered, they did not model based on cost. He added that they did incorporate projected grant funding into the plan.

##### **Benton Franklin Walla Walla RTPO**

Len Pavelka presented the Benton Franklin Walla Walla process and plan. He mentioned that the meetings were all well attended.

Alfie asked about the work being done to incorporate the needs of the veteran population in the region. Len replied that more trips and services are available to veterans now that Ben Franklin Transit is working with Google Transit, but that no veterans attended the public and stakeholder meetings in Walla Walla. Len added that he is dedicated to getting more involved in actively engaging with veteran populations. Alfie replied that she will contact Len directly to help with that effort.

#### **Legislative activities**

Brian began by noting that the House and Senate versions of the budget are very different as they relate to WSDOT's Public Transportation Division. Both propose cuts to the division, but the Senate budget would cut much deeper. This could affect the division's grants programs and staff, among others.

Don mentioned that two ACCT bills passed unopposed out of committee, but neither passed out of the houses before the deadline. Continued funding for ACCT is funded in the House version of the budget, but not the Senate version. Depending on what happens before the end of session, the council must at some point consider whether, if eliminated, to move forward on an ad hoc basis.

Madelyn added that CTA-NW is working on a few pieces of legislation, and those wishing more information should contact her. Tom is tracking issues as they relate to transit agencies. Joelle mentioned a proposed cut in a bill that would significantly affect youths with disabilities.

**TCRP Report 144/GAO Report**

Both the TCRP 144 and the GAO Report focus on model of cost sharing and trumpet the practice as an effective use of transportation dollars. This models much of the work done by ACCT through the Federal Opportunities Workgroup.

**CMS Letter Follow Up**

Don and Todd have been working on this together, although all council members that have interest in contributing to the process are welcome to check in with Don.

**Member and audience comments**

Barbara: asked for input from the Council on a letter for the driver's training manual. Don mentioned that Ryan is coordinating any WSDOT contributions.

Madelyn: CTANW is looking for representation from communities with special needs.

Joelle: DSHS's Division of Rehabilitation is revising its state plan, and there public forums in May- she will send dates to the Council for distribution.

Don: WSDOT's grants program review process is moving forward, but must wait for the budget picture to clear.

Colleen: partnered with C-TRAN and Easter Seals on a special needs transportation project. Ryan will represent WSDOT at an event later this year, and it is hoped DSHS will be represented as well.

Michelle: submitted a grant with the National Senior Center - grant is intended to provide support for immigrant and refugee services.